



## **OPERATION Jump Start**

*"Securing our Nation's Borders"*

### **Joint Task Force VISTA**

Office of Public Affairs

#### ***Point of Contact:***

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### ***Background:***

On May 15, 2006, President Bush called upon southwest border governors to utilize National Guard troops to provide support to the U.S. Customs & Border Patrol along our nation's southern boundary with the objective to gain and maintain operational control of the U.S. southern border. Operations would include, but not be limited to, "operating surveillance systems, analyzing intelligence, installing fences and vehicle barriers, building patrol roads and providing training." National Guard support to CBP is a temporary bridge until civilian law enforcement can increase its own capabilities.

In June, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger authorized deployment of California National Guard forces to Operation Jump Start. Joint Task Force VISTA was formed.

### ***Provisions***

- National Guard will perform the mission under the command and control of state governors (Title 32) but with funding provided by the federal government.
- Deployment must not degrade National Guard capabilities to respond to other DoD missions or state emergency disaster preparations or response.
- National Guard forces will serve in support roles only and will NOT engage in law enforcement activities to include apprehension, custody or transport. Our mission is to "assist law enforcement and not be law enforcement."
- The deployment rely principally on volunteers
- OIF/OEF Vets will not be involuntarily called
- Mission will end NLT 31DEC2008
- Mission must not impact deploying units

### ***Directive***

The California National Guard will establish a Joint Task Force; organize battalion equivalent Task Forces for San Diego and El Centro Border Patrol Sectors, and develop centrally managed Engineer and Aviation Task Forces. Task Forces will provide operational, infrastructure and administrative support to the Border Patrol.

## **Concept of Operations**

JTF VISTA will plan and execute operations to support Border Patrol in:

- Releasing Agents for enforcement duties
- Providing Observation Teams for entry identification
- Improving Border infrastructure

## **Mission Sets:**

- Entry Identification Teams – Observation & Reporting (ScopeTrucks)
- Information Technology – Camera Operations & Sensor Dispatch
- Maintenance – Vehicles, Equipment & Facilities
- Engineering – Repair and Construction of Fences, Roads, Lighting & Camera Towers along with other Environmental Projects
- Aviation – Observation & Transport (Terrain Denial & Air-to-Ground Interdiction)
- General Support – Admin & Training, Range Safety Officers

## **Weapons & Arming**

Some deployed personnel are armed to protect themselves or others if necessary. Those issued weapons have been thoroughly trained, qualified and re-certified on the use of the respective weapons issued. All deployed personnel are briefed in and will follow specific Regional Rules for the Use of Force.

## **California National Guard Background**

National Guard provides force of fully trained, equipped and dedicated professional citizen soldiers and airmen in a tradition that goes back 370 years.

National Guard has a dual role: to provide trained, equipped and qualified military forces in support of Department of Defense missions and to provide humanitarian disaster relief to the people of California in the aftermath of floods, wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters as well during as civil unrest.

California National Guard is comprised of just over 16,000 Army National Guard and 4,500 Air National Guard (Air Guard is a reserve component of U.S. Air Force).

Since 9-11, California has mobilized more than 20,000 personnel for operations at home and overseas.

The California National Guard currently has approximately 2,500 personnel currently mobilized for duty in support of the War on Terror.

The National Guard's unique capabilities allow the Department of Defense to partner with the Department of Homeland Security in an integrated civilian and military effort. For years, the National Guard has helped federal and state law enforcement agencies to counter the flow of illegal drugs across our border.

The National Guard does not conduct domestic intelligence operations

California National Guard is ideally suited for this mission with the unique skill sets, capabilities, and available force of highly-trained and dedicated personnel.

### ***Engineering on the Border***

California National Guard has 17-year history of working on the border  
Since 1990 NG and active duty engineers

- have installed 58 miles of primary barrier fence
- 11 miles of secondary Sandia fence
- 8.5 miles of rail barrier
- 2.5 miles of anti-vehicular barrier
- and .25 miles of surf fence
- built 152 miles of new road and
- 4 miles of all-weather road
- performed 1338 miles of road maintenance and 39.5 miles of road rehab
- built 21 major structures with nearly 10,000 cubic yards of concrete poured and
- 76 minor structures with 890 cubic yards of concrete poured
- completed 15,380 man-hours for Storm Weather Pollution Prevention.

For FY 2007 Task Force Steel Castle has 31 rotational units scheduled, consisting of 1825 soldiers for improvements of border infrastructure